

AGENDA

THE TRAVEL CONNOISSEUR ■ CALENDAR ■ WINONA RYDER



What's hot in CAPE TOWN

From contemporary art and coffee shops to boutique hotels and indie stores, Cape Town's hip credentials are going from strength to strength. SARAH KHAN has the low-down

Cape Town has been on an upswing ever since the 2010 FIFA World Cup, when it surged on to the global stage. In the last six years, Capetonians have leveraged their city's many assets – natural beauty, agricultural abundance, a fascinating-if-often-tragic history – to build a business hub rivalling most in the southern hemisphere. “It has become one of the great leisure destinations in the world, like Rio or London,” says Mark Coetzee, executive director and curator of the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (zeitzmocaa.museum), slated to open in September. Dramatically backed by 1,085m Table Mountain, surrounded by surfable beaches and hiking trails, it connects urban life with the outdoors like few other cities. Middle Eastern and European carriers have been adding flights, meaning now's an optimal time to see dynamic neighbourhoods like the CBD, where exciting restaurants and shops keep popping up – proof this city at the edge of Africa isn't done booming yet. ▶

View of the Twelve Apostles mountain range from Camps Bay

PHOTOS: DAVID CROOKES; GETTY IMAGES; ALAMY ILLUSTRATIONS: MARK NERYIS

Restaurant recs from a guy who knows

LIAM TOMLIN owns *Chefs Warehouse and Canteen* (chefswarehouse.co.za), a laid-back tapas spot in the Central Business District that doubles as a culinary shop selling knives, olive oils and cookbooks from around the world. Here are some of his top spots...

BACON ON BREE AND CULTURE CLUB CHEESE

“These two spots are right next door to each other. Bacon on Bree co-owner Richard Bosman makes some top-notch charcuterie, and his menu is full of bacon – on salads, on burgers, even mixed into the mayo for BLTs. Culture Club Cheese serves sandwiches and salads, along

with the widest selection of artisanal cheeses in Cape Town. Try the raclette.” *Raclette from AED 33; 0027-1-422 3515, cultureclubcheese.co.za*

FRANKIE FENNER MEAT MERCHANTS AND PUBLIK

“Both a butcher and a grape bar, it now has a third element, with chef Ash Heeger opening a

restaurant called Ash (*entrées from AED 20; 0027-21-424 7204, ashrestaurant.co.za*) in the same space. She serves charcoal-grilled beef, chicken, lamb and pork, nose-to-tail style, alongside a great grape list by David Cope, who’s a big champion of indie producers like Alheit Vineyards.” *0027-21-424 7204, ffmm.co.za*

THE CLASSICS WE LOVE

Casual may be on trend, but Cape Town has a few finely tuned stalwarts we return to again and again

LA COLOMBE

The storied restaurant in the grape-making suburb of Constantia has a well-earned reputation for turning out top-flight culinary talent like innovative chef Luke Dale-Roberts. Current chef Scot Kirton kicks off his inventive meals with his signature tuna tataki playfully served in a tin. *Dinner menu from AED 500; 0021-21-794 2390, lacolombe.co.za*

THE TEST KITCHEN

The tasting-menu restaurant that catapulted Dale-Roberts to fame when it opened in 2010 is still one of Cape Town’s best. Expect unexpected dishes like local liquorice-cured Wagyu



biltong, and vanilla-, peach- and rose-scented foie gras. *Tasting menu from AED 320; thetestkitchen.co.za*

HEMELHUIJS

Reservations are essential at this brunch mainstay that regularly revamps its menu and décor. A perennial favourite: flavourful *mosbolletjie* bread made from grape must and aniseed. *Entrées from AED 20; 0027-21-418 2042, hemelhuijs.co.za*



Culture Club Cheese’s yellow façade. **Left:** Summer berries at Test Kitchen. **Opposite:** Cape Point Nature Reserve has scenic hiking trails

CAPE TOWN

THE TOP HIKES

Other cities have skyscrapers; here, there’s Table Mountain. With easily accessible trailheads, you’re never far from an afternoon of adventure

IF YOU HAVE...

90 MINUTES The spiral route from Signal Hill up Lion’s Head winds its way around the conical peak, giving you a changing view of the city at every turn.

3 HOURS Take the steep but doable Platteklip Gorge trail up iconic Table Mountain, starting not far from the visitors centre; pause at the top for a well-deserved photo op, then relax on the cable-car ride down (*AED 36 one way*).



5 HOURS At the southwestern-most tip of Africa, the scenic Cape Point Nature Reserve has countless hiking paths, including some overnight routes. The Shipwreck Trail is littered with remnants of boats: there’s a reason this area was originally dubbed the Cape of Storms.



The know-it-all app

VoiceMap (voicemap.me) has audio tours for cities worldwide but because it launched here, its Cape Town offerings are super robust. Look for narratives on the city’s slave history, the Company’s Garden and the revolutionary struggle, all told by locals like genealogist Aubrey Springveldt and novelist Justin Fox. Who knew George Bernard Shaw surfed at Muizenberg beach? Those guys.

Bring an extra suitcase

This could be the best place in all of Africa to buy cutting-edge fashion, homeware and jewellery – and AIDAN BENNETTS, stylish creative director of the CBD furniture shop Stable (stable.org.za), knows where to get the good stuff

DARK HORSE

They’ve expanded into things like dining room tables, armchairs and other furniture, but they got their start with well-crafted leather bags, duffels and totes that remain their best-known line – along with an ever-expanding selection of buttery wallets, iPad cases and belts. *Leather duffel bag, AED 880; 0027-21-447 1462, dark-horse.co.za*

NIC HARRY

Socks may not sound cool, but these guys have created a colourful range that’s manufactured locally

out of sustainable bamboo. They’ve also got a solid selection of ties, pocket squares and lapel pins. *Socks from AED 4; 0027-21-447 3080, nicharry.com*

NEIGHBOURGOODS MARKET

The Saturday market at the Old Biscuit Mill is known for its food, but designers show up, too. Furniture and lighting from Jasper Eales Original is worth seeking out, though admittedly hard to pack. More portable is the range of contemporary costume jewellery, as well as fine gold-plated and diamond pieces from

Black Betty, which also has a stand here. *Every Saturday, 9am-2pm; neighbourgoodsmarket.co.za*

PRINS & PRINS

This jeweller has a gemstone museum in the basement, and they also make bespoke bracelets, earrings, necklaces and rings, specialising in diamonds and tanzanite, mostly set in white gold. *Price on request; 0027-21-422 0148, prinsandprins.com*

WIID DESIGN

Laurie Wiid van Heerden works mostly with cork to make bar stools, seats and lights at his appointment-only atelier, but smaller items like jugs and vases are just as lovely. *0027-72-494 5914, wiiddesign.co.za ▶*



The well-tended ocean-view lawn at Ellerman House. Below: At the corner of Hout and Loop streets

CAPE TOWN, FOUR WAYS

These historic properties – each in a different neighbourhood – offer a window into the port city’s rich and varied past

ON THE V&A WATERFRONT

The six-room **Dock House Boutique Hotel & Spa** is housed in the former Harbour Master’s residence, one of this popular district’s oldest surviving structures, originally built in 1870. The opulent interiors blend plenty of old-world details like antique chairs, mirrored desks and vintage hat boxes with modern amenities such as oversized bathrooms and a lovely (if smallish) pool. *Doubles from AED 1,950; 0027-21-421 9334, newmarkhotels.com*

IN THE CBD

Set in the stately former South African Reserve Bank and Temple Chambers, the central **Taj Cape Town** is a short stroll from some of the city’s top sights, like the 17th-century Company’s Garden and Gothic St George’s Cathedral. The hotel’s 176 understated rooms are in stark contrast to the building’s classic bones; many have floor-to-ceiling windows that frame Table Mountain. *Doubles from AED 1,325; 0027-21-819 2000, tajcapetown.co.za*

IN THE GARDENS

This mostly residential area is marked by leafy lanes lined with tidy Georgian villas but few good hotels. An exception is the 15-room **Cape Cadogan Boutique Hotel**, occupying an elegant early-19th-century building with national monument status, steps from the posh restaurants and boutiques of Kloof Street. The sleek décor includes bold stripes, offset by touches of Oscar Wilde-inspired extravagance like Versailles chairs and vases brimming with proteas. *Doubles from AED 490; 0027-21-480 8080, capecadogan.co.za*

ON THE ATLANTIC SEABOARD

The Cape Edwardian mansion **Ellerman House**, with its panorama of the Atlantic from the seaside Bantry Bay district, is the city’s answer to Rhode Island’s Ocean House. One of the most luxurious hotels in the country, it has an extensive collection of South African art adorning the walls and the manicured cliffside lawns. *Doubles from AED 2,385; 0027-21-430 3200, ellerman.co.za*

It’s all about Loop Street

With smart boutiques, casual bistros and plenty of bars, this CBD micro-hood is the city’s most talked-about of the moment

61 + ATE, No. 61

This casual lunch spot has a rotating menu of dishes like summer chickpea salad with halloumi and chilli salt and pepper squid. *Chickpea salad, AED 17; 0027-21-426 1273, 61ate.co.za*

GIULIO’S CAFÉ, No. 16

An Italian spot with exposed brick and white-walled interiors by local designer Michael Chandler. *Breakfast from AED 6; 0027-21-418 6304, giulios.co.za*

VELVET CAKE CO., No. 16

Next door to Giulio’s, it’s famed for its “naked rainbow cake” with multi-coloured layers slathered in cream cheese frosting. *Rainbow cake from AED 84; 0027-21-286 1082, thevelvetcakeco.com*

GOLDBAR, No. 70

The bubbles flow until late at this lounge hosting soul, hip-hop

and funk DJs. *Bottles of bubbles from AED 370; 0027-72-673 6869*

HONEY BADGER, No. 91

Loop Street’s hangout HQ serves Alliance ale and hosts comedy shows and concerts. *Fish and chips AED 20; 0027-21-286 1469, 91loop.co.za/the-honey-badger*

ISSA LEO, No. 75

This Cape Town-based menswear brand from Spanish designer Issa Lopez mixes classic European blazers with graphic tees. *T-shirts from AED 80; 0027-21-426 2757, issaleo.com*

VILLAGE IDIOT, No. 32

A vibe-y neighbourhood pub, it serves peri-peri chicken and beef sausage burgers and hosts a popular *braai*, or barbecue, on summer Sundays. *Braai boards from AED 18; 0027-21-418 1548, thevillageidiot.co.za*



Art collectors, take note

The contemporary art scene here is getting better by the day, and its hub is Gallery MOMO (0027-21-424 5150, gallerymomo.com), the CBD outpost from super-curator MONNA MOKOENA, who’s got his eye on these artists

MAURICE MBIKAYI

A Congolese artist now working in Cape Town, Mbikayi creates “fascinating” sculptures and mixed media pieces from discarded and outmoded computer parts like keyboards, mice and USB cables. *gallerymomo.com/artist/maurice*



JONATHAN FREEMANTLE

The South African artist’s signature style mixes earth, resin and oil to create “powerful, engaging” landscape paintings. *0027-82-831 4217, jonathanfreemantle.com*



Haas Coffee, one of Cape Town’s top cafés



THE BEST BEACHES

The city is fringed by countless stretches of sand but most visitors find the waters too icy for a swim, even during the peak summer months of December through February. Don’t let that stop you from hitting the coast. Whatever you’re into, there’s a beach for that

Family-friendly

Clifton 1, 2, 3 or 4

Beautiful people

Camps Bay

Surf breaks

Muizenberg

Low-key vibes

Llandudno

Penguin spotting

Boulders

Views of Table Mountain

Bloubergstrand



From top: Jonathan Freemantle in his studio; Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden

CAPE TOWN

THE LOCAL BREW

Independent shops serving organic African beans are booming in the CBD, where locals are increasingly living and working

“Cape Town has around 160 independent roasters, more than you’d find in London,” – a city with nine times the population – says David Donde, founder of **Truth Coffee** (coffee from AED 5; 0027-21-200 0440, truthcoffee.com), a Steampunk-inspired spot where waiters in leather waistcoats and top hats (don’t hold it against them) serve house blends with names like Battle Brew, Potion Coffee and Vengeance Blend. That supply is meeting a rapidly growing demand as an expanding roster of entrepreneurs convert old commercial buildings into all-day cafés like **Haas Coffee** (coffee from AED 5; 0027-21-461 1812, haascollective.com), with salvaged wood furnishings, contemporary paintings, photography for sale and killer espresso drinks. Nearby **Kamili Coffee** (coffee from AED 4; 0027-83-444 5375, kamilicoffee.co.za) is a brick-walled den inside a turreted Victorian-era building filled with burlap sacks heaving with beans. The granddaddy of the artisanal coffee scene remains **Origin** (breakfasts from AED 9; originroasting.co.za), which serves a hearty breakfast – think omelettes or *shakshuka* with merguez lamb sausage – along with house-roasted blends. ☕